Levy sugar allocations are generally issued in time except for the month of May, 1994 when they are issued on 15th April, 1994. This had caused some delay in the actual supply of sugar to fair price shops in some parts of the country. Government has taken steps to import sugar for meeting the requirements of the Public Distribution System (PDS). Arrangements have been made to ensure that there is no disruption in the supply of sugar to the consumers through the PDS.

उपभोक्ता न्यायालयों को वित्तीय सहायता

738. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव :** क्या **नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण** मंत्री 2 मई, 1994 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 5237 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार उपभोक्ता न्यायालयों को आवश्यक मूलभूत सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने के लिए राज्यों को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने का विचार रखती है ?

नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता, मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद) : जी, नहीं।

Price control mechanism

739. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the price control mechanism, through which Government check the price rise of essential commodities;

(b) what are the powers of his Ministry to check hoarding of essential commodities by traders;

(c) how many cases have been registered so far against the hoarding of essential commodities; and

(d) how many searches/raids were conducted so far by the Governments against the hoarders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The price control mechanism adopted to check price rise of essential commodities broadly covers strengthening of Public Distribution System, monitoring of price and availability situation; strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and other regulations, and augmenting domestic supplies through imports whenever necessary. Import of sugar, and palmolein have been placed under Open General Licence.

(b) Under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, The Central Government has been given power to regulate production, supply and distribution of essential commodities at fair prices. The Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution is the nodal Ministry for the purpose of Essential Commodities Act. The Central Government has delegated the power to issue control order to the States and U.Ts., who implement the E.C. Act through the control orders.

(c) No. of persons prosecuted — 1367 (as reported by the States/UTs as on 30.6.94 during the current year).

(d) No. of searches/raids conducted —41214 (as reported by the States UTs as on 30.6.94 during the current year).

Margin of profit on consumer goods by Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar

740. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the margin of profit charged on the sales of consumer goods and items sold to Government departments by

the Super Bazar and the Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) the reasons for high margin of profit by the Super Bazar;

(c) the steps taken to bring the rate of margin of profit to that of the Kendriya Bhandar and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any indent proforma has been introduced in the Super Bazar and the Kendriya Bhandar whereby it can be known as to what are the consumer/grocery items that have/are not being indented by the branch stores;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not the steps taken to introduce the same forthwih;

(f) whether the regional distribution centres/godowns are not placing indents in respect of all the items every month that are on the inventory of these institutions; and

(g) if so, the reasons for discriminating the suppliers and denying the consumers the right for selection of items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Margin of profit charged by Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar on grocery items, consumer goods and items sold to Government Departments varies from 5—15 per cent in case of Super Bazar and 5—9 per cent in Kendriya Bhandar.

(b) and (c) The margin is always fixed on reasonable basis depending on the quality, market rate as well as expenses incurred in retail sale of the items.

(d) and (e) Both Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar have introduced proformae for getting idents from the Branch stores to effect supplies according to their needs This proforma includes details of stock in hand and the fresh supply needed to all the items dealt with in the Branch stores.

(f) and (g) Indents by the godowns/Regional Distribution Centres for purchasts are sent on the basis of the stock lying in the godowns and the demands for the particular items. Hence, there is no question of discrimination for placing indents for purchases.

Fair pricing in Super Bazar

741. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Uchit Mulya Sambhandhi Super Bazar Ke dave par sawal" appearing in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 23rd May, 1994;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the extent to which the news report is correct and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Super Bazar participated in open tender for supply of Phenyl to DTC and quoted rates for supply in 5 litres and 15 litres tin, whereas one of its supplier, registered with Super Bazar quoted rates in 200 litres barrel pack. Rates quoted by supplier in 200 litres barrel pack were lower but this pack was not on the approved list of Super Bazar. There was no irregularity.

(d) Since there was no irregularity, no action has been taken.